

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-25

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BELGRADE 5644

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, OGEN, YO

SUBJECT: KOMMUNIST CRITICIZES WESTERN MEDIA INCLUDING VOA

REF: BELGRADE 5551, BELGRADE A-672, BELGRADE 5264

1. CURRENT ISSUE LCY ORGAN KOMUNIST CARRIES COMMENTARY BY BRANKO SKRINJAR AGAIN DEFENDING YUGOSLAVIA'S SUPPORT OF ARAB CAUSE AND CONDEMNING THOSE WHO DISTORT HER AVOWED INDEPENDENT, NON-ALIGNED COURSE OF ACTION. ARTICLE, WHICH ALSO COVERED DECEMBER 24 TANJUG BULLETIN, CITES RECENT CAMPAIGN OF "INSINUATIONS" AND "FABRICATIONS" IN WESTERN MEDIA.

2. COMMENTARY LEADS WITH REFERENCE TO RECENT ARTICLE APPEARING IN AVAATION WEEK AND DER SOLDAT ALLEGING PRSENCE SOVIET BASES IN YUGOSLAVIA AS EXAMPLES OF "IMPERIALIST ACTIONS AND PRESSURE" NOW BEING APPLIED ON YUGOSLAVIA AND STATES THAT RELEASE THIS "INFORMATION", AS IN PREVIOUS CASES, WAS RESPONSE TO YUGOSLAVIA'S "ACTIVE AND EFFECTIVE RESISTANCE TO FORCES OF IMPERIALISM AND AGGRESSION." CHARGES APPEAR, NOTES SKRINJAR, AS AGGRESSION IN MIDEAST MEETS INCREASING WORLD CRITICISM, INCLUDING ON PART AMERICAN ALLIES.

3. INSINUATION DIRECTED AGAINST YUGOSLAV POLICY, KOMUNIST
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CONTINUES, INCLUDE "FABRICATIONS OF TYPE RECENTLY LAUNCHED BY

VOICE OF AMERICA AND CARRIED BY CORRIERE DELLA SERA AND SOME WEST GERMAN DAILIES "THAT WE (YUGOSLAVS) HAVE OFFERED SERVICES TO AMERICANS IN TRANSPORTATION OF ARMS TO ISRAEL". LCY JOURNAL FURTHER CLAIMS THAT FABRICATION WAS DESIGNED TO "EXERT PRESSURE ON CIRCLES IN WEST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES REJECTING CONFRONTATION WITH ARAB COUNTRIES FOR SAKE OF AMERICAN INTERESTS."

4. ARTICLE CONCLUDES THAT SUCH TACTICS ARE TESTIMONY TO INCREASING INFLUENCE OF NON-ALIGNED POLICY IN WORLD AFFAIRS, AS WELL AS INTERNATIONAL REPUTATION OF YUGOSLAVIA.

5. COMMENT: VIEW FACT CHARGES NOW APPEARING IN LCY ORGAN, EMBASSY PLANS RAISE THEM AGAIN SOONEST WITH YUGOSLAV OFFICIALS AND EDITORS KOMUNIST. FOR THIS PURPOSE NEED ASAP TEXTS ANY VOA COVERAGE SUBJECT INDICATED IN COMMENTARY.
JOHNSON

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